Chair made by T Lincoln for Arlington DRAWER 2 7a Furniture

71.2009.085.04475

Curios and Relics

Furniture

Chairs

Made by Thomas Lincoln for Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

91.2009.085.04495

Shaplin

SMALL CHAIR MADE BY THOS. LIN. FOR ABE.

4366 Maryland Ave.,
St. Louis, Mo 4/14-31

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Research Dept.,
Lincoln Nat'l Life Ins. Co.,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

Your name was given to me by Mr. Paul M. Angle, Sec. Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield, Ill; as possibly being interested in Lincoln relics.

There was recently brought to my attention by Mrs. Harry Fisher of this city, a chair that has been in the Fisher family for many years.

It is a child's chair, fashioned by hand of hickory, and made by Abrahams Lincoln's father for Abraham when he was

a child of three years, during the Lincoln's residence in Kentucky. When the Lincolns left Kentucky for Indiana, the chair was presented to a neighbor as a token of friendship and remembrance, and brought by that neighbor to Springfield, Ills., where it was in turn presented to the present Mrs. Fisher's mother-in-law in "grateful remembrance" for a kindness done by the latter lady. Mrs. Alice Fisher treasured the chair for many years, and it was frequently loaned for exhibition at G A R and other public occasions until finding it in danger of being mutilated by relic hunters, she stored it away. At her death in 1908, it descended to her son Harry of this city,

and on his death in 1917, it became the treasured property of his widow.

This lady is in failing health and is anxious that this valuable chair be not lost to posterity.

If your department is interested in this matter, I will be glad to furnish you with a picture of the chair and any further information you may desire.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nellie Sheridan

4366 Maryland Ave
St Louis, Mo 5/7-1931

Louis A. Warren Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

I have delayed replying to yours of April 17 regarding the small chair made by his father for Abraham Lincoln while a child in Kentucky, because I hoped to be able to send with same a good picture of chair, I am enclosing a very unsatisfactory snap shot of the chair by an amateur photographer. The seat of the chair is interwoven from hickory strips, and the whole chair is seasoned and hardened from age until it carries a natural polish.

In answer to your question as to who was the first recipient of the chair will say: When the Lincolns left Kentucky for Indiana Mrs Lincoln gave the chair to a Mrs. Sherman, (now this Mrs. Sherman had been

married twice and I do not know her other husband's name) who later gave it to her daughter, Mrs. Lemuel Parsons who was removing with her husband to Springfield, Mo. While in Springfield the Parsons met with financial reverses (Mrs. Parsons was a R R man) and Mrs. Parsons was very ill for a long time. During this period of adversity and illness, a neighbor, Mrs. Alice Fisher, was very kind to the family and nursed Mrs. Parsons to final recovery. The Parsons decided to remove to Monett, Mo. and Mrs. Parsons brought the little chair to Mrs Fisher with the remark: "I haven't any money with which to reimburse you for your many acts of kindness to us in our distress & illness; but I am going to give you the Abraham Lincoln chair which I prize far more than money, as a remembrance." (It is presumed that Mrs Parsons is still living and if so is about 70 years of age. Her husband Lemuel Parsons was at one time a conductor on the Frisco) Mrs. Alice Fisher treasured the chair very highly and often loaned

it on the occasion of old Soldiers reunions and other Public and civic affairs in Springfield Mo., until she found it was in danger of mutilation by curiosity & souvenir hunters. Mrs. Alice Fishes died in 1909 and gave the chair to her son Harry who prized it as a sacred bequest. On his death in 1917, it became the property of his wife Mrs. Jennie Fishes of 3515 St Louis Ave. St Louis. This lady is highly respected, absolutely reliable and truthful conscientious to a fault and under no circumstances would be a party to a fraud or misrepresentation. I have known her for 35 years. She would make an affidavit of facts and information as handed down to her.

Any further correspondence or information you may need should be addressed to Mrs. Jennie Fishes 3515 St Louis Ave St Louis Mo.

Thanking you for your interest I am,

Sincerely

Mrs. Nellie Shevlin

Small chair made for Abraham Lincoln by his father. Seat interwoven from hickory strips, and the whole chair is seasoned and hardened from age until it carries a natural polish.

Letter of Mrs. Nellie Shevlin.
Possession of Mrs. Jennie Fisher
3515 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis, Mo. May 1931